

Submission
No 376

**INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE WESTERN HARBOUR
TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

I would like to express my serious concerns about the many negative impacts of the current plans for the Northern Beaches Tunnel.

I am a resident of North Balgowlah, and hold grave fears that this area and community will be badly damaged throughout the lengthy construction period. It is a suburb full of young families, many of whom moved here due to the beautiful natural surrounds and the fact that it is a quiet, clean and safe area for our children to grow up.

Outlined below are my concerns. My ask is that this project is slowed down and the due diligence is done to minimise these many negative impacts and threats to the local community.

I object to the extensive environmental and community impacts that the current plans have. This includes but is not limited to:

Negative Impact on the Environment

- 1) Potential destruction of Burnt Bridge Creek and surrounds (eg bushland, wildlife etc) due to a possible 96% reduction in water flow
- 2) Pollution of Manly Dam Reserve where many family enjoy recreational activities
- 3) Movement of contaminated sediment to Clontarf and Middle Harbour - the sediment curtain proposed will not fully prevent this
- 4) Discharge of 428,000 L per day of waste water into Queenscliff Lagoon / Beach

Negative Community Impact and Health Threats:

- 1) The use of unfiltered smoke stacks that will be placed close to multiple schools, ovals and homes. While they claim the pollution will be within Aust standards, this is far from best practice and will pollute the area. Medical experts state that the future impact on the health of the community cannot be predicted and therefore is a health risk. This is a disgrace. If stacks cannot be filtered for cost reasons, then quite simply they cannot afford to build this tunnel.
- 2) Exposure to significant levels of noise, vibrations and dust incl 24 / 7 tunnelling (over 4000 homes subjected to excessive noise)
- 3) Significant traffic congestion including: Over 3000 vehicles per day across all sites, 1690 per day at the Balgowlah Golf Course site alone

Equating to 1.5 heavy vehicles every minute or 4.5 vehicles (total) every minute

- 4) Rat run traffic through the suburb and passed Balgowlah North Public Schools as commuters try to avoid the congestion around the construction sites. This provides an obvious threat to the safety of our children.

In addition to my main concerns outlined above, I would also like to flag the following:

- a) Poor community consultation

This was extremely poor during the EIS process. I attended a couple of zoom sessions and the vast majority of community questions were unanswered. The community requested that the EIS consultation period be extended due to Covid restrictions and this was rejected.

b) Lack of a compelling business case

As far as I am aware, there has been no business case or cost benefit analysis done for the Beaches Link as a stand alone project. Work done on this by local community experts indicates that this project cannot be justified.

The plans for this tunnel need to be slowed down so the due diligence can be done to ensure it is done in the right way. ie in a way that is safe for residents of Balgowlah / North Balgowlah and Seaforth and in a way that will not destroy our local environment.